GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UN AND THE NEW THREATS
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on UN and the New Threats was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the said Conference;

(c) whether India participated in the said Conference;

(d) if so, the major issues on which India advocated its high priority;

(e) the names of countries which have supported our views; and

(f) the benefits likely to be accrued to India from the said Conference?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)-(f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 239 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-07-2004 REGARDING `INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UN AND THE NEW THREATS`

1. An International Conference on `United Nations and the New Threats: Rethinking Security`, was organized by an independent non-governmental think tank - the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, in New Delhi from 1-3 July, 2004. The Conference was held to assist the deliberations of the 16-member High Level Panel appointed by the UN Secretary General to look into the threats and challenges faced by the world and necessary reform of the UN. The themes discussed at the Conference included: threats posed to the international community due to terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their linkages with terrorism, and socio-economic challenges. The Conference also discussed the issues of reform and restructuring of international organizations, including the UN, to more effectively counter the global challenges through collective action.

2. This Conference was not an inter-governmental meeting under the UN or a conference organized by the Government of India.

3. Some members of the UN Secretary General`s High Level Panel attended the Conference. Others attending included, some international participants and a number of leading academics and scholars from India. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon`ble Home Minister of India

4. Indian participants stressed the imperative of UN reforms to make the UN more contemporary and relevant. A number of delegates were supportive of these views.

5. The Conference may be regarded as a significant input into the ongoing deliberations about the role of the UN and need for reform.